Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Date LOT# Text Commentary

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| 10/31/12 | ???? | “Homicide,” he [Tom Joad] said quickly. “That’s a big word—means I killed a guy. Seven years. I’m sprung in four for keepin’ my nose clean.” | What is the significance of the murder to the rest of the story? Perhaps Tom Joad killed someone while he was away from the rest of his family who are farmers from Oklahoma. Maybe Tom is seeking redemption for his past sins or maybe he has strayed so far from what was expected of him that he is struggling to return to his family’s fold. |

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| 11/1/12 | ???? | “’Course with a preacher it’s all right because nobody would fool around with a preacher anyway. But this guy was funny. You didn’t give a damn when he said a big word ‘cause he just done it for ducks. He wasn’t puttin’ on no dog.” | The author is clearly exemplifying the dialect of the setting by emphasizing for the reader the way the characters sound. We often experience the same use of dialect in our own regions, but we are usually unaware of its uniqueness until it is pointed out in some way to us. It may be difficult for some readers of this text to comprehend the speech pattern and idioms used by the characters. |